

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 10 JUN 2004



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Applicant's or agent's file reference DE9-2001-0119	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/01774	International filing date (day/month/year) 21.02.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 28.03.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G06F17/21		
Applicant INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
  - ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  30.09.2003	Date of completion of this report  08.06.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office - Gitschiner Str. 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840	Authorized Officer  Stauch, M Telephone No. +49 30 25901-657 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/01774**

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-14 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-20 filed with telefax on 27.02.2004

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/9-9/9 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☒ the claims, Nos.: 21
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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International application No. **PCT/EP 03/01774**

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1 Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-B1-6 327 628 (CHASTON MILES ET AL) 4 December 2001 (2001-12-04)

2 Document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of independent claim 1, and discloses an Internet portal system which offers different layouts and contents for different users and/or groups. These layout definitions may be administrated and defined by different administrators. However these definitions are not arranged hierarchically and not based on layers and deltas, but are "complete" descriptions of pages, wherein certain parts may be defined to be unalterable.

The differentiating features for independent claim 1 is therefore

- the use of layers containing only the deltas of layout definitions for specific administration levels, which refer back to their parent layers

The independent claims are therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT)

The problem to be solved by the differentiating features is hierarchical administration of contents and layout through levels of administration with minimum storage for the respective layout definitions corresponding to said levels of administration.

None of the available prior art documents discloses or suggests to solve the problem in a manner as described by the differentiating feature. Therefore the solution presented to this problem as proposed in the independent claim 1 is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT)

3 Claims 2-15 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty (Article 33(2) PCT) and inventive step (Article

33(3) PCT).

- 4 Independent claim 16 relates to a method to displaying a page which has been specialized by the administration method of claim 1. The differentiating features from the closest prior art D1 are corresponding to those of claim 1, hence for the same reasons as given for claim 1, independent claim 16 is considered to be novel (Article 33(2) PCT) and inventive (Article 33(3) PCT).
- 5 Claim 17 is dependent on claim 16 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty (Article 33(2) PCT) and inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).
- 6 Independent claims 18 and 20 refer to an application program using the method according to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11-16 and to a computer program product to execute the method according to claims 1-17. Therefore claims 18 and 20 meet the requirements of the PCT as to novelty (Article 33(2) PCT) and inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the same reasons as the corresponding methods.
- 7 Claim 19 is dependent on claim 18 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty (Article 33(2) PCT) and inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).